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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,253	10/16/2003	Pierre Bouley	SCHN : 035	1892
6160	7590	03/11/2004	EXAMINER	
PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P. 1421 PRINCE STREET SUITE 210 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2805			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/686,253	BOULEY ET AL.
	Examiner Tho D. Ta	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-4 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) 5-7 is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guinda et al. (6,283,801).

In regard to claim 1, Guinda et al. discloses elastic connection terminal for an electric switch or junction device, the device comprising a conducting part (2) provided at one end with a support strip (2b) with a connection region (distal end of 2b), the terminal being fastened to the support strip (2b) and comprising: an elastic loop (3) provided with a fitting arm (3a), a cable clamping arm (3c) and a bent part (3b) connecting the fitting arm and the clamping arm, the fitting arm being applied on the front of the support strip (2b) to come into contact with the conducting part (2), while the clamping arm is provided with a window arranged to clamp a cable (C) between the back of the support strip and an edge of the window, and, an auxiliary part (4) capable of forming a stop (45) for one end of the cable (C) inserted into the terminal, wherein the auxiliary part (4) is brought into contact with the back of the support strip (2b) and is provided with at least one attachment element (where the shoulders or grooves of 2b engages with 43a, see figures 3 and 4) gripping a region of the support strip (2b) so as to be joined to the conducting part (2).

In regard to claim 2, Guinda et al. discloses that the auxiliary part (4) has cable guide panels (43b), the panels extending as far as the connection region of the support strip (2b) and comprising attachment elements near this connection region.

In regard to claim 3, Guinda et al. discloses that the auxiliary part (4) has a back wall (11) and that the guide panels (43b) define an individual compartment (12) for each cable, with the support strip (2b) and the back wall (11), this compartment being delimited by a panel (walls between 12, see fig. 1b) so that it can be isolated from the adjacent compartment (12).

In regard to claim 4, Guinda et al. discloses that the guide panels (43b) are shaped to form a guide, and particularly a slope, adapted to the shape of the clamping arm (3c) and its pivoting movement.

In regard to claim 8, Guinda et al. discloses that the auxiliary part (4) is provided with at least one stop (distal end of 43b, adjacent 44) cooperating with a stop face (inner wall of 11, see fig. 1a) of the housing in a direction corresponding to pressure being applied to the elastic loop by a maneuvering tool or pin (B).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 1, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the conducting part is provided with a slit and that the bottom of the auxiliary part is provided with an assembly tongue that acts as a stop, the tongue passing through the slit to project on the front side of the support strip. In regard to claim 7, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest that the protective part being independent of the auxiliary part; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (it is not obvious to combine references 6,283,801 with 5,879,204).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER